approval' for setting up of a new airport of international standards at Mopa in Goa. State Government will take further action to select joint venture partners through global tenders. As the proposal is at nascent stage, it is not possible now to give the estimated cost and date of completion of this project. The existing Goa Airport shall remain in use for civil aircraft operation till the commissioning of the new airport proposed at Mopa in Goa.

Airports in Madhya Pradesh

4585. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports which are in operation in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the names of airports which are not use for technical or other reasons; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to open more airports for small turbo-prop aircrafts to increase tourism flow in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The airports at Bhopal, Indore, Khajuraho, Raipur, Jabalpur and Gwalior are in operation.

(b) The airports at Panna, Satna, Khandwa and Bilaspur owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are non-operational airports due to lack of demand from airline operators.

(c) AAI will open more airports as and when airlines indicate their plan for operation of small turbo-prop aircraft depending upon the commercial viability and availability of such aircraft.

Augmentation of Air Services to Bhopal

4586. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air services to Bhopal are inadequate;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of traffic to Bhopal from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Calcutta; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to augment flights to Bhopal during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) At present, Bhopal is connected by the folliwing air services:—

Alliance Air:

— Delhi-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore & return 2 flight/week
— Delhi-Indore-Bhopal & return 5 flight/week
— Mumbai-Indorc-Bhopal & return 5 flight/week
— Chennai-Nagpur-Bhopal & return2 flight/week (introduced w.e.f. 26.3.2000)

Sahara Airlines:

— Mumbai-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai Daily
(introduced w.e.f. 3.2.2000)

(b) and (c) Airlines arc free to operate to any place in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which stipulate certain minimum operations on specified category of routes.

Giga-Deal

4587. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of news-item "Giga-Deal in trouble" which was published in India Today of March 27, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Sankhya Vahini project was never ever discussed by the full Telecom Commission before the Cabinet approval was accorded to it;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the DOT has finalised its policy of leasing out its optical fibre network;

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether adopting the MOU route instead of open bidding is in keeping with such policy; and

(f) if not, the reasons for such an *ad-hoc* approach was?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The news-item appeared in India Today of March 27, 2000.